## OF RECLAMATION QUISI AREA ONTAN RIVER DEPARTMENT

### **Public Comment Card**

Please use this comment card to submit input regarding the Walker River Basin Acquisition Program and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Please include any sources of relevant data or information that you feel may enhance this document. Comments must be received by *November 26*, *2007*.

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- By US Mail addressed to Mrs. Caryn Huntt DeCarlo, Lahontan Basin Area Office, U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, 705 N. Plaza St., Room 320, Carson City, NV 89701; or
- 3. By E-mail to *chunttdecarlo@mp.usbr.gov*; or
- 4. By Fax to (775) 884-8376; or
- 5. If you have questions regarding the EIS or the process, please call Caryn Huntt DeCarlo at (775) 884-8352.

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### PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name: KATHALINE TAPP
Affiliation (if any):
Street Address: 510 WELICOME DR.
City, State, Zip: WALKER LAKE, NV & Bat#: 15
Comments: (Comments may be continued on the back or a separate sheet.)

Comments must be received by November 26, 2007

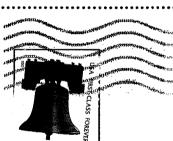
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Lahontan Basin Area Office U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation ATTN: Mrs. Caryn Huntt DeCarlo 705 N. Plaza St., Room 320 Carson City, NV 89701

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### To Whom It May Concern:

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Foremost we want to preserve Walker Lake. Water is one of the most valuable resources of the State of Nevada. We do not want the Lake to turn in to another Mono Lake, CA or Owens Lake, CA.

The water available should be sufficient to satisfy the needs of all users in the Walker Lake Basin. Primary to accomplish this is accurate measurements for all diversions and wells to account for and police the users of water. No user should be able to use more than his or her allotment!

As a resident of the Walker Lake community I do not want the bed and banks of Walker Lake Community given to the Walker River Paiute Indian Tribe. We would like to see the Tribe take the bed and banks from the existing reservation down to and including Sportsman Park. Further we do not want any of the existing water rights of the Walker Lake Water G.I.D. to be involved in this transaction.

The following are important issues involved; I have circled the issues that are of interest to me personally:

- 1. Preserve Walker Lake as a recreation area for all people now and in the future.
- Preserve the existing water rights of the Walker Lake Water G.I.D. Exclude the bed and banks of the Walker Lake Community being given back to the Walker River Paiute Tribe.
- 4. Enforce and Monitor all water diversions and water wells to make sure no user receives more than their allotment.
- 5. Federal financing for development of ground water sources in the Hawthorne Army Depot Lands for either drinking water or to help maintain the level of Walker Lake.
- 6. A co-coordinated study to provide solutions to meet the legal requirements for fire fighting and emergency services to rural communities.
- 7. Waste Water Treatment Plants for Hawthorne and Walker Lake to help preserve Walker Lake water quality.
- 8. Exclude the residents of Mineral County from being charged by the Walker River Paiute Tribe for using Walker Lake: Camping, Fishing, Boat Permits etc.
- Financial funding to improve the flow of water in the Walker River.

  Remove vegetation that consumes large quantities of water. Make necessary improvements to irrigation ditches to prevent water losses.

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- 3. By E-mail to <u>chunttdecarlo@mp.usbr.gov</u>; or
- 4. By Fax to (775) 884-8376; or

Name: Louis Thompson

5. If you have questions regarding the EIS or the process, please call Caryn Huntt DeCarlo at (775) 884-8352.

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Affiliation (if any): WLWG	
Street Address: 60 Box 476	
City, State, Zip: Mina, NV 89422 Date	e: 10/24/07
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3) impact on the community of walker L	
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Lahontan Basin Area Office U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation ATTN: Mrs. Caryn Huntt DeCarlo 705 N. Plaza St., Room 320 Carson City, NV 89701 To:

Caryn Huntt DeCarlo

Bureau of Reclamation

From:

Laura Thrailkill

250 Artist View

Wellington, NV 89444

Re:

EIS-Walker River Basin Acquisition Program

My comments and concerns:

Have other remedies been investigated to increase water input to Walker Lake?... such as accessing nearby aquifers,

upgrading river water delivery systems so that not so much river water is lost to seepage and evaporation, creating an outflow system/lake so that Walker Lake is no longer a Terminal Lake and can clean itself without needing increased water flow.

If studies have shown that increasing water flow to Walker Lake <u>will not</u> "save" the lake, why is the effort to divert water from the Walker Basin still going on? Is this already a "done deal" and are you just going through the motions because you are legally mandated to do so?

Any water taken out of the Walker River Basin will irreparably damage communities and life styles that people have cherished for generations. As the water disappears, fields will dry up and revert to weeds and dust, domestic wells will dry up, property values will do down and people will

be forced to move out. What once were fertile and profitable agricultural regions will become waste lands. Harry Reid should be ashamed of himself.

## OF RECLAMATION ERIOR ш DEPARTMENT

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- 3. By E-mail to chunttdecarlo@mp.usbr.gov; or
- 4. By Fax to (775) 884-8376; or

Name: EVERETT TRIPLETT

Affiliation (if any):\_\_\_

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Street Address: 51 BAKER LN
City, State, Zip: YERINGTON NV 39447 Date: 10-25-07
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Lahontan Basin Area Office U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation ATTN: Mrs. Caryn Huntt DeCarlo 705 N. Plaza St., Room 320 Carson City, NV 89701

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Affiliation (if any):	
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City, State, Zip: WALKER LAKE NV 89415	Date: 11 - 21 - 07
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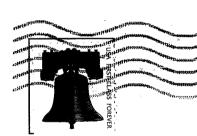
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WALKER LAKE, NV

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Lahontan Basin Area Office U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation ATTN: Mrs. Caryn Huntt DeCarlo 705 N. Plaza St., Room 320 Carson City, NV 89701

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### To Whom It May Concern:

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- 9. Financial funding to improve the flow of water in the Walker River. Remove vegetation that consumes large quantities of water. Make necessary improvements to irrigation ditches to prevent water losses.

To: Bureau of Reclamation

Re: Scoping comments for NEPA

From: Lura Weaver 59 Rowntree Lane Smith, NV 89430

### 1. Effects on water resources:

There does not appear to be adequate funding to obtain 50,000 acre feet of water.

This amount of water taken from the agricultural irrigators would be disastrous to the remaining irrigators as fewer people on the ditches would be more financially responsible for the upkeep of the ditches and taxes to WRID. It also would make the delivery of water less efficient.

Many people believe that taking away 50,000 acre feet out of Mason and Smith Valleys will put their domestic wells in jeopardy. This should be studied thoroughly.

The proposal should be to study how to increase the flow to Walker Lake. There are many alternatives to study to increase the flow. These would encompass channel cleaning and payment for cloud seeding. The most important proposal on the books is a program being worked on by WRID for farmers to lease water for Walker Lake. This should be considered in your study. Another proposal to study would be to use ground water available in the Shurz area.

Also, since this water originates in California and is held there for Nevada irrigators, it would seem reasonable to assume you would include Mono County, California in your study. Douglas County, Nevada should have some input into the proposal as well because they rely on tax revenue from Topaz Lake.

### 2. Socioeconomic effects:

One big effect of taking so much water from the area would be lifestyle. In a draft Master Plan being worked on by Smith Valley residents, the people voted to include sections to protect agriculture as much as they can. These votes were by residents who only have a few acres, because they don't want the character of Smith Valley to be degraded with the green fields gone. You should check this out.

A huge economic effect of this loss of water would be to Lyon County. At present and for the foreseeable future, the County Government is having a tough time funding infrastructure items like roads, libraries, etc. They can't afford to lose tax revenues from agriculture land. Without water, land will return to desert, and that is not worth much. And who will be responsible for fixing the dust problems that arise? The Nevada State government will suffer as well. They are already making moves to cut budget expenditures.

An honest study of the economy of Smith and Mason Valleys compared to the economy generated at Walker Lake should be done. Is wiping out one worth whatever might happen at the lake?

The effect of this water loss would have a huge effect on businesses in Yerington and even to the towns of Wellington and Smith. This should be studied.

This proposal does not take into consideration the lawsuit that is hanging over the people. Will the lawsuit go away? It is certainly something that is a burden to the people holding water rights.

### 3. Nevada State Law:

Where does the Nevada State Engineer fit into your plan? I thought that the water rights went with the land. How does this fit? Nevada controls its own water.

### 4. Honesty:

Will you honestly analyze the data and make conclusions based on the data that may not be the ones Sen. Reid wants? The University of Nevada will not. There are a lot of lives in jeopardy here, and we are trusting you to do the right thing.

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Name: Chris Wheeler
Affiliation (if any): Retired (Water production - Flood control)  Street Address: P.O. BOX 58
City, State, Zip: Wellington, MV, 89444 Date: 1/25/2007
Comments: (Comments may be continued on the back or a separate sheet.)
See deparate sheets enchosed
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Wellington, NV 89444 CwheeLer 77@ netscape com

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Lahontan Basin Area Office U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation ATTN: Mrs. Caryn Huntt DeCarlo 705 N. Plaza St., Room 320 Carson City, NV 89701

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BUREAU OF RECLAMATION Lahontan Basin Area Office

### **EIS Questions:**

- 1) The EIS should include a study of how the ground water table would be recharged and maintained after removal, or reduction of current surface water irrigation in Smith and Mason Valleys. In Smith Valley, the primary recharge to the water table is surface water irrigation. Is there a way to maintain current levels without, or with reduced surface water irrigation?
- 2) With the now lowered water tables in Smith and Mason Valleys, how many residential wells would have to be redrilled to reach a safe and reliable water supply? Who would pay for this?
- 3) How much more will residential well owners have to pay (%) to pump water from the now lowered water table? (Increased pump head = more pump HP to pump the same water = higher cost per gallon pumped)
- 4) With a lowered water table, water quality will suffer. (Less dilution = more pollution) Is there a feasible way to mitigate this in Smith and Mason Valleys residential and municipal wells? What would it cost? Who would pay?

To be totally fair to the people of Smith and Mason Valleys, the long term economic effects should be studied in these communities and Lyon County in general. The long term economic effects in Hawthorne and Mineral County can be assumed to be a positive with increased water to the lake. Negative effects will mostly be centered in Lyon County, Smith and Mason Valleys, any study should focus on Lyon County.

If the true goal is to restore Walker Lake, and maintain it, then the true goal of the program would be delivery of more than 50,000 AF to Walker Lake. As stated in other meetings on this subject, the total average annual water in this system is 225,000 AF. 50,000 AF represents roughly 22% of the annual water, not counting the large transmission loss to deliver 50,000 AF to the lake.

The following economic questions would take into account the above as a long term goal and studies based on these figures.

- 5) What is the total value of the Lyon County agricultural production annually, and what dollar value would a 22% loss represent lost production?
- 6) How interdependent is the Lyon County, City of Yerington, on dollars earned within the county? How many times does a dollar circulate in the county before leaving?

(note here that we did such a study in Fort Bragg, CA in 1983, This study was done by Humbolt State for the Woodworkers Union. The study concluded that local dollars circulated through the town of Fort Bragg businesses more than 6 times. This surprising result makes this aspect an important issue that should be one of the first things studied. Any questions on the history of this, the how and why I would be happy to share.)

- 7) After answering the question raised in #6 above, how will these impact businesses in Lyon County, and the City of Yerington in general? How many businesses will fail and move on?
- 8) Again taking into account question #6 how will the net loss in sales in Lyon County and the City of Yerington effect the Lyon County and City of Yerington General Fund? A 22% reduction in ag production = unknown reduction in local spending X local circulation = unknown loss to the Lyon County and the City of Yerington general funds based on dollars not in circulation?
- 9) How will the decline in agricultural land values, on land without water, further effect the Lyon County and City of Yerington's general funds after land is reappraised to reflect lower values?
- 10) Could the decreased property values questioned above in #9 bleed over to all land values in Lyon County and cause a further reductions to the above general funds through more reappraisals?
- 11) How would the reductions in the general funds be reflected in services Lyon County and the City of Yerington now provide? How would this effect public safety, police and fire?
- 12) How long would it take for Lyon County and the City of Yerington to recover from these losses, what could be feasibly done to help with this recovery long term?

In conclusion I'd like to say that I think Harry Reeds plan to restore Walker Lake is in my opinion a noble one. There seems to be little thought given to the collateral damage his plan will cause to accomplish this. Lyon County residents would bare the blunt of this under his program as currently proposed. In my opinion the best alternative put forward so far has been the proposal from the Walker River Irrigation District. This plan used as a place to start, minimizes the impact to all concerned and still delivers water to the lake. Walker River Irrigation District is the only logical group to administer this plan keeping local control that can react to local conditions. Make no mistake, Harry Reeds program will impact everyone in Lyon County, not just agriculture.

UNR has more than enough funding to study the full impacts, not just the 12 listed above, with the 16 million dollar funding that comes to them with this program. My main concern, after the meeting in the Smith Valley Community Center, is that UNR has positioned themselves in that meeting to only have positive study results supporting Harry Reeds program. With the grant, they are bought and paid for? Study of true impacts and conditions will not necessarily support Harry Reeds program. That said, I feel UNR needs to reestablish it's creditability within in this process if they are charged with the ground work for the EIS or any other work on this project. UNR students working on this project need to leave the "virtual classroom" come down to Lyon County and do proper studies, not with some on line models that may not apply to our actual conditions. Any final solution has to include resolution with the tribe and forever indemnify the Walker River Irrigation District from that day forward, along with all water rights holders in the system. The Districts Board of Directors should have the power to settle any other disputes with their decision in the matter being final.

Thank You,

Chris Wheeler

P.O. Box 58

Wellington, NV

89444

465-9940

Small Water Rights holder on 77 Lower Colony

Chin Whih

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See deparate sheets enchosed
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Wellington, NV 89444 CwheeLer 77@ netscape com

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BUREAU OF RECLAMATION Lahontan Basin Area Office

### **EIS Questions:**

- 1) The EIS should include a study of how the ground water table would be recharged and maintained after removal, or reduction of current surface water irrigation in Smith and Mason Valleys. In Smith Valley, the primary recharge to the water table is surface water irrigation. Is there a way to maintain current levels without, or with reduced surface water irrigation?
- 2) With the now lowered water tables in Smith and Mason Valleys, how many residential wells would have to be redrilled to reach a safe and reliable water supply? Who would pay for this?
- 3) How much more will residential well owners have to pay (%) to pump water from the now lowered water table? (Increased pump head = more pump HP to pump the same water = higher cost per gallon pumped)
- 4) With a lowered water table, water quality will suffer. (Less dilution = more pollution) Is there a feasible way to mitigate this in Smith and Mason Valleys residential and municipal wells? What would it cost? Who would pay?

To be totally fair to the people of Smith and Mason Valleys, the long term economic effects should be studied in these communities and Lyon County in general. The long term economic effects in Hawthorne and Mineral County can be assumed to be a positive with increased water to the lake. Negative effects will mostly be centered in Lyon County, Smith and Mason Valleys, any study should focus on Lyon County.

If the true goal is to restore Walker Lake, and maintain it, then the true goal of the program would be delivery of more than 50,000 AF to Walker Lake. As stated in other meetings on this subject, the total average annual water in this system is 225,000 AF. 50,000 AF represents roughly 22% of the annual water, not counting the large transmission loss to deliver 50,000 AF to the lake.

The following economic questions would take into account the above as a long term goal and studies based on these figures.

- 5) What is the total value of the Lyon County agricultural production annually, and what dollar value would a 22% loss represent lost production?
- 6) How interdependent is the Lyon County, City of Yerington, on dollars earned within the county? How many times does a dollar circulate in the county before leaving?

(note here that we did such a study in Fort Bragg, CA in 1983, This study was done by Humbolt State for the Woodworkers Union. The study concluded that local dollars circulated through the town of Fort Bragg businesses more than 6 times. This surprising result makes this aspect an important issue that should be one of the first things studied. Any questions on the history of this, the how and why I would be happy to share.)

- 7) After answering the question raised in #6 above, how will these impact businesses in Lyon County, and the City of Yerington in general? How many businesses will fail and move on?
- 8) Again taking into account question #6 how will the net loss in sales in Lyon County and the City of Yerington effect the Lyon County and City of Yerington General Fund? A 22% reduction in ag production = unknown reduction in local spending X local circulation = unknown loss to the Lyon County and the City of Yerington general funds based on dollars not in circulation?
- 9) How will the decline in agricultural land values, on land without water, further effect the Lyon County and City of Yerington's general funds after land is reappraised to reflect lower values?
- 10) Could the decreased property values questioned above in #9 bleed over to all land values in Lyon County and cause a further reductions to the above general funds through more reappraisals?
- 11) How would the reductions in the general funds be reflected in services Lyon County and the City of Yerington now provide? How would this effect public safety, police and fire?
- 12) How long would it take for Lyon County and the City of Yerington to recover from these losses, what could be feasibly done to help with this recovery long term?

In conclusion I'd like to say that I think Harry Reeds plan to restore Walker Lake is in my opinion a noble one. There seems to be little thought given to the collateral damage his plan will cause to accomplish this. Lyon County residents would bare the blunt of this under his program as currently proposed. In my opinion the best alternative put forward so far has been the proposal from the Walker River Irrigation District. This plan used as a place to start, minimizes the impact to all concerned and still delivers water to the lake. Walker River Irrigation District is the only logical group to administer this plan keeping local control that can react to local conditions. Make no mistake, Harry Reeds program will impact everyone in Lyon County, not just agriculture.

UNR has more than enough funding to study the full impacts, not just the 12 listed above, with the 16 million dollar funding that comes to them with this program. My main concern, after the meeting in the Smith Valley Community Center, is that UNR has positioned themselves in that meeting to only have positive study results supporting Harry Reeds program. With the grant, they are bought and paid for? Study of true impacts and conditions will not necessarily support Harry Reeds program. That said, I feel UNR needs to reestablish it's creditability within in this process if they are charged with the ground work for the EIS or any other work on this project. UNR students working on this project need to leave the "virtual classroom" come down to Lyon County and do proper studies, not with some on line models that may not apply to our actual conditions. Any final solution has to include resolution with the tribe and forever indemnify the Walker River Irrigation District from that day forward, along with all water rights holders in the system. The Districts Board of Directors should have the power to settle any other disputes with their decision in the matter being final.

Thank You,

Chris Wheeler

P.O. Box 58

Wellington, NV

89444

465-9940

Small Water Rights holder on 77 Lower Colony

Chin Whih

# **DEPARTMEN**

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- 3. By E-mail to chunttdecarlo@mp.usbr.gov; or
- 4. By Fax to (775) 884-8376; or
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Name: SHARON K WHITE
Affiliation (if any):
Affiliation (if any):
City, State, Zip: WALKER LAKE, NV 89415 Date: 11-21-2007
Comments: (Comments may be continued on the back or a separate sheet.)

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Lahontan Basin Area Office U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation ATTN: Mrs. Caryn Huntt DeCarlo 705 N. Plaza St., Room 320 Carson City, NV 89701

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BUREAU OF RECLAMATION Lahontan Basin Area Office

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The water available should be sufficient to satisfy the needs of all users in the Walker Lake Basin. Primary to accomplish this is accurate measurements for all diversions and wells to account for and police the users of water. No user should be able to use more than his or her allotment!

As a resident of the Walker Lake community I do not want the bed and banks of Walker Lake Community given to the Walker River Paiute Indian Tribe. We would like to see the Tribe take the bed and banks from the existing reservation down to and including Sportsman Park. Further we do not want any of the existing water rights of the Walker Lake Water G.I.D. to be involved in this transaction.

The following are important issues involved; I have circled the issues that are of interest to me personally:

- Preserve Walker Lake as a recreation area for all people now and in the future.
- 2 Preserve the existing water rights of the Walker Lake Water G.I.D.
- **3** Exclude the bed and banks of the Walker Lake Community being given back to the Walker River Paiute Tribe.
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Name: Africia Enily Willians (Alice Armstrong)
Affiliation (if any):
Street Address: 407 Belly Jane Dr. Hawthorn, Nev.
Street Address: 407 Betty Jane Dr. Hawkhorny Nev.  City, State, Zip: Walker Lake, Nev. 8 Pate: 11/17/07
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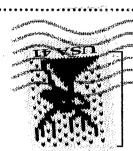
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Lahontan Basin Area Office U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation ATTN: Mrs. Caryn Huntt DeCarlo 705 N. Plaza St., Room 320 Carson City, NV 89701

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Affiliation (if any):				
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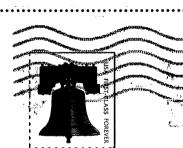
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BUREAU OF RECLAMATION Lahontan Basin Area Office

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EIS Meeting October 23, 2007 Yerington, Nevada

As a Mason/Smith Valley resident I am extremely concerned about the Federal Government's program to purchase and permanently remove 50,000 acre feet of our valley's water to be send to Walker Lake.

I believe It would severely impact the following:

The general beauty of the valleys would be diminished

Ground water supplies
Remaining agricultural industries

All agricultural related businesses - farm labor - farm equipment & repair services - fuel services
- power service companies - seed & fertilizer industries

The communities general economy would be affected
The valley's eco system, wildlife and environment would be greatly impacted

Arid lands creating air pollution and noxious weeds would be on the rise

Land values could go down
The community would suffer a loss of job opportunities
Trees along agricultural ditches could die

Therefore I recommend that the Federal Government consider adopting a leasing option as presented by the The Walker River Irrigation District to satisfy the water needs of Walker Lake.

This program addresses in part the integrity of established water righted lands addressing the above concerns while delivering real water to Walker Lake.

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Box 485 Gerington	
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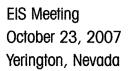
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Signature Signature	Personal Comments
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Signature Dave De Grendele. NU 89447 Address

Personal Comments
This proposal has put the eart before the horse! No one knows if Walker Lake can be saved and if it can, at what cost to Smith & Mason Valleys, Senator Reed would sponsor laws that would send all gaming from Las Vegas to Reno. base their lives on agri. as those in Las Vegas epend on gaming,

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Valerie De Troot Signature 493 S. Whitacre St. Yerington, Nr. 89447

Address

**Personal Comments** 

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Edna Chiem Signature  755 River ave.  Yerington	Personal Comments I agree with the above stalements
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377 ST RT 339		
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Arthur Franks
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204 WILSON CANYON DR	
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	Personal Comments	
Signature		
3 Grechacros for		
Jarington NV		
89447		
Address		

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Wellington, NV 89444 Are	don't want to see Smith &
Wellington, NV 89444 Are	Non 7 Min T 10 300 DMM
wellington, NV 89444 Are	on Valleys destroyed.
	you considering mine water
Pu	chase/transfer?
Address	/

October 23, 2007 Yerington, Nevada  My Family 15		
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Personal Comments  Signature  99 Upper Colony Rd  Wellington, NV 89444		
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Factricia Scarlett
Signature

249 US NWY 95AN

GERING FON, NEW

89447

Address

Personal Comments

(2) without water this Valley would dry
out of Blow away—

(2) one take in the desert

a residual of Lake Jahonten.

That has proven to be a

dying system to begin with

We not worth the death of

Mason Valley.

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165 Pete Henrichs Re Verington NV 89447	
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539 Lower Colony Rd Wellington NV 89444	
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Yenington NU

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**Personal Comments** 

What is an owner going do with land w/o water of the upp Lerry mondering the upp borin out of this - is un-

## YOUR COMMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY NOVEMBER 26, 2007

Submit in the following ways:

Mall To:

Mrs. Caryn Huntt DeCarlo Lahontan Basin Area Office U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation 705 N. Plaza St., Room 320 Carson City, NV 89701

E-Mail:

chunttdecarlo@mp.usbr.gov

Fax To:

775 884-8376

Aften: Mrs. Caryn Huntt DeCarlo

Or Call:

Mrs. Caryn Huntt DeCarlo

with any questions at 775 884-8362

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Atten: Mus. Caryn Huntt De Carlo

RECEIVED

NOV 13 2007

**BUREAU OF RECLAMATION** Lahontan Basin Area Office

NOV 21 2007

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**EIS Meeting** October 23, 2007 Yerington, Nevada

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go dry due to lach of recharging the ground
wateries our ditches.